THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) and (b) According to the information furnished by the Super Bazar, Delhi as on 1st March, 1997, 22 employees were under suspension as under:—

Period for which suspension	No. of employees under
More than 6 months	3
More than 1 year	7
More than 2 years	2
More than 3 years	6
More than 5 years	4
	22

(c) and (d) As per rules of Super Bazar, the suspension allowance is payable at the rate of 50% of the salary. However, modification of these rules is under consideration of the Management.

(c) As reported by Super Bazar, in case of one suspended employee, the subsistence allowance is being paid at the rate of 75% of the salary on grounds of his poor financial status.

Malpractices by Fair Price Shop Owners in Maharashtra

1480. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES. CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the poor State of PDS in Maharashtra particularly in the rural and tribal areas due to the rampant malpractices by the Fair Price Shop owners;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to conduct a survey in this regard throughout the State instead of depending upon the reports submitted by State Government; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) to (c) Public Distribution System (PDS) is implemented under the joint responsibility of Central and State Governments. Operational responsibility of implementation of PDS lies with State Governments. No major complaints have been received from State Government regarding malpractices by Fair Price Shop owners in Maharashtra.

Increase of Issue Prices in PDS

1481. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the commodities falling under the Public Distribution Scheme whose issue prices have been increased during the current year;

(b) the extent of increase in case of each commodity; and

(c) the position of the scheme with regard to issue of cereals at half the issue price to the people living below the poverty line, by when this scheme is likely to be made effective?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) and (b) During the current year, the price of sugar has been raised from Rs. 9.05 per kg. to Rs. 10.50 per kg. with effect from 10th February, 1997.

Under the Trageted Public Distribution System (TPDS), issue price of Rice and Wheat has been fixed separately for Below Poverty Line (BPL) Population and above Poverty Line (APL) population as follows:

(per kg.)

	BPL	APL	Earlier Price
Rice			
Common	3.50	—	5.37
Fine	3.50	6.50	6.17
Super fine	—	7.50	6.48
Wheat	2.50	4.50	4.02

(c) A statement on the TPDS has been made in Rajya Sabha on 24th February 1997 and copies of the detailed guidelines issued in this regard have also been laid on the Table of the House. Based on these guidelines, State Governments/UT Administrations have been asked to identify the beneficiaries below poverty line, issue Special Ration Cards to them and make all arrangements for delivery of foodgrains to the beneficiaries in a satisfactory and transparent manner. As soon as a State Government/UT Administration completes this exercise, it can start deriving the benefits under the TPDS Scheme. Those schemes will, however, become effective throughout the country from 1st June, 1997.

Districts without Consumer Forum

1482. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are districts in the country where there are no consumer forum as provided under Consumer Protection Act;

(b) if so, the names of such districts. State-wise as on 15th February, 1997 and the reasons for not setting up the consumer forum; and

(c) the time by when such forums will be set up?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) and (c) In 513 districts in the country, 510 district Fora arc functioning at present. However, Panchkula in Haryana, Rajaji, Trivcllorc MGR, Karur Dhecran Chinnamalai, Perambalur Tiruvalluvar, Tiruvarur ATP, Vaigai Alagumuthu Kane in Tamilnadu and Dhalai in Tripura arc newly formed Districts where District Fora have not been set up as yet. According to the provisions of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986, the responsibility for setting up of District Forum rests with the respective State Govcrnments/U.T. Administrations.

विभिन्न राज्यों में वितरित गेहूं की मात्रा

1483. **श्री नरेन्द्र मोहन** : क्या नागरिक आपूर्ति, उपभोक्ता मामले और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) पिछले एक वर्ष के दौरान, सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली के लिए विभिन्न राज्यों को कितना गेहूं किन मूल्यों पर वितरित किया गया, और

(ख) क्या सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली से भारत सरकार पर अतिरिक्त वित्तीय बोझ पड़ा है?

खाद्य मंत्री तथा नागरिक पूर्ति, उपभोक्ता मामले और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री (श्री देवेन्द्र प्रसाद यादव) : (क) सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली के तहत राज्यों/संघ राज्य क्षेत्रो को गेहूं 402 रूपए प्रति क्विंटल के केन्द्रीय मूल्य पर किया गया जाता है । जनवरी 1996 से जनवरी 1997 तक गेहूं का राज्यवार वितरण संलग्र विवरण में दिया गया है । **(नीचे देखिए)**

(ख) जी , हां । सरकार को सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली के तहत खाद्यान्न के प्रापण और वितरण के लिए भारतीय खाद्य निगम को राजसहायता देनी पड़ती है ।

विवरण

जनवरी 1996 से जनवरी 1997 के दौरान विभिन्न राज्यों/संघ राज्य क्षेत्रों द्वारा गेहूं का उठान दर्शानें वाला विवरण

राज्य/संघ राज्य क्षेत्र	कुल उठान (हजार मी. टन में)
आन्ध्र प्रदेश	130.00
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असम	359.80